

March 31, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 4, 2002, your Board adopted the Safe Haven Task Force's recommendations for more effectively implementing the Newborn Abandonment Law (SB 1368), also referred to as the "Safely Surrendered Baby Law" or the "Safe Haven Law;" and designated the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) as the lead Department for purposes of staffing this effort, and instructed my office to coordinate efforts through the Children's Planning Council (CPC) and the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN). Additionally, your Board instructed me to report back to your Board on a quarterly basis on the status of the implementation of the recommendations. This is the third status report.

During the past quarter, January through March 2003, the following key activities have occurred:

- **Eleven additional municipal fire departments were designated as Safe Surrender sites.** In February 2003, your Board designated the following municipal fire departments as Safe Surrender sites: Burbank, Los Angeles, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, Santa Fe Springs, Torrance, and West Covina. Additional municipal fire stations will be designated in April 2003.
- **County of Los Angeles Web Page on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law was launched.** In February 2003, the County launched its Web Page, www.babysafela.org, which provides key information on the Law

and resource information specific to surrendering an infant in the County. The Web Page also includes a search engine to identify designated County Safe Surrender sites and provides maps and driving directions.

- **Billboards on the Law to be placed on Department of Beaches and Harbor phone kiosks and lifeguard stands.** By March 31, 2003, posters displaying information on the Law, hotline, and Web Page, will be placed on phone kiosks and lifeguard stands on County beaches.
- **County contract language adopted requiring information on the Law be disseminated to all County contractors.** On March 20, 2003, the Audit Committee approved the Board Policy Manual Statement requiring County contractors to provide information to their employees about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and its implementation in the County.

A more detailed matrix indicating the implementation progress for each of the adopted recommendations is attached. Key activities planned for next quarter include: designating additional municipal fire departments as Los Angeles County Safe Surrender sites; producing local radio and television Public Service Announcements (PSAs); disseminating Safe Haven public information campaign materials Countywide; and developing standard Countywide training materials on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Deena Margolis at (213) 974-4604.

DEJ: ASD: DGM

Attachment

c: CPC
First 5 LA
ICAN

County Implementation of Newborn Abandonment Law ("Safely Surrendered Baby Law")

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendations Status Report: Third Quarter (January 2003 to March 2003)

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
<p>Recommendation 1: Request the District Attorney and County Counsel – in consultation with the Children’s Planning Council (CPC), Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), and other appropriate entities – to: (a) develop recommendations for amendments to the Newborn Abandonment Law – SB 1368 (“Safe Haven Law”) that can contribute to its more effective implementation, including: (1) assuring the confidentiality and exploring the potential for the anonymity of the parent, (2) requiring all hospitals with emergency rooms and all other designated Safe Surrender sites to post uniform identifying Safe Surrender site markers, (3) considering extending the age of a newborn who can be safely surrendered from 72 hours to five days old, (4) expanding the designation of Safe Surrender sites to include, at a minimum, hospitals without emergency departments and County fire stations, and (5) expanding the “Good Samaritan Law” to include adults who assist others to safely surrender their babies; and (b) work with the California State Department of Social Services (CDSS) and other California counties’ representatives on a State-convened task force to finalize a legislative package to effect these amendments to SB 1368.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present recommendations for amendments to CDSS Legal and Policy Work Group. 2. Participate on State convened task force to <u>finalize</u> a legislative package to effect amendments. 	<p>Lead: District Attorney (DA), County Counsel</p> <p>Support: CPC, ICAN, HASC, Chief Administrative Office (CAO)</p>	<p>In February 2003, your Board approved a set of proposed amendments to the Safely Surrendered Baby Law as part of the County’s State Legislative Agenda for the First Year of the 2003-04 Session. These amendments incorporate several of the Board-adopted amendments approved as part of the Safe Haven Task Force Recommendations.</p> <p>In February, 2003, representatives from the CAO, County Counsel, and DA attended the State’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law Legislative Committee to develop a set of legislative changes to be proposed to Senator Brulte’s office for SB 139, which was introduced on February 6, 2003 to amend the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. Consensus was reached by the committee to advocate for including five of the eight County-proposed legislative amendments in SB 139. A follow-up committee meeting has been scheduled in April 2003 to address outstanding legislative issues.</p> <p>In March 2003, County representatives presented their recommended legislative changes to SB 139 to Senator Brulte’s office. Senator Brulte’s office is currently reviewing the County’s proposed legislative changes. The State Senate Judiciary Committee will consider SB 139 on May 6, 2003.</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
<p>Recommendation 2: Consider designating the following public entities as Safe Haven sites in Los Angeles County: (a) County and municipal fire stations, (b) County hospitals without emergency departments, (c) County health clinics, and (d) the County's Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs); and instruct the County Fire Chief and the Director of Health Services (DHS) – in consultation with the Sheriff, the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, and the Los Angeles Fire Chiefs' Association – to determine the feasibility of implementing these new Safe Haven sites, including a timeline and cost considerations, and report back to the Board within 60 days.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feasibility study of designating and implementing new Safe Haven sites, including a timeline and cost considerations. 2. Board designation of additional Safe Haven sites. 	<p>Lead: Fire, DHS</p> <p>Support:</p> <p>Sheriff, Los Angeles County Fire Chiefs' Association, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association</p>	<p>On February 11, 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion, introduced by Supervisor Knabe, designating the following municipal fire departments as Safe Surrender sites: Burbank, Los Angeles, Monterey Park, Monrovia, Santa Fe Springs, San Gabriel, and Torrance. On February 18, 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted another motion, introduced by Supervisor Antonovich, designating the City of West Covina Fire Department as a Safe Surrender site. All cities placed pre-assembled Newborn Safe Surrender kits and posted Safe Surrender signs at their fire stations. Prior to designation, all fire department staff was trained on procedures in the event of a newborn surrender. The CAO is coordinating the designation of additional municipal fire departments.</p> <p>The Fire Department conducted an assessment to determine the feasibility of designating the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) as Safe Surrender sites. On December 23, 2002, the Fire Department issued a memo to the Board recommending that EMTs not be designated as Safe Surrender sites because the public is unable to distinguish between the various emergency and non-emergency vehicles used by the Department in the performance of their duties; and non-emergency vehicles are not staffed by trained emergency medical technicians to handle the medical examination of the infant required under the Law. The report indicated that if an infant is surrendered to an EMT, however, these units are prepared to handle the surrender according to existing procedures.</p> <p>The Fire Department is also developing a Safely Surrendered Baby Law curriculum that will be included in the Pediatric EMT continuing education program. Implementation of the training curriculum is projected for July 2003.</p> <p>DHS has further evaluated the appropriateness of designating its Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs) as Safe Surrender sites and has concluded that because these facilities are not open 24 hours a day and do not have emergency services available, designation is not recommended.</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
<p>Recommendation 3: Request First 5 LA (formerly Los Angeles County Children and Families First – Proposition 10 Commission) – in consultation with the directors of the departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), DHS, Mental Health (DMH), Fire, the CPC, ICAN, Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE), HASC, religious leaders, and other appropriate organizations, and in collaboration with local, regional, and State agencies – to: a) develop and support the implementation of a regionally consistent Safe Haven Public Information Campaign that conveys a prevention-oriented message about California’s Safe Haven Law, and (b) identify ways to evaluate the effectiveness of that campaign.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and support the implementation of a regionally consistent Safe Haven Public Information Campaign; 2. Develop an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the campaign. 	<p>Lead: First 5 LA</p> <p>Support: CAO, DCFS, DHS, DMH, Fire, CPC, ICAN, LACOE, HASC, other appropriate organizations</p>	<p>The County’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law public information campaign activities initiated or underway during this quarter include: 1) development of a public information program plan by First 5 LA’s marketing consultant in January 2003, that included recommended messaging and a paid media plan; 2) customization and design of State public information materials to include County-specific information; 3) coordination of printing and distribution of public information materials, including a sample newsletter article, brochures, posters, wallet cards, fact sheet, and order form for additional materials, with distribution to community-based organizations and County health and human services departments scheduled for Spring 2003; 4) development of a transit ad by Fire that is currently running on Foothill Transit buses; 5) production of a public service announcement to air on Los Angeles County Adelphia Cable stations in Spring 2003; 6) design and printing of 20,000 bumper stickers by First 5 LA, to be placed on County and municipal vehicles; 7) development of free advertising on Clear Channel bus shelters, arranged by Supervisor Knabe’s office, with the support of First 5 LA; 8) production of PSAs to be placed on Department of Beaches and Harbors’ beach phone kiosks and lifeguard towers; 9) creation of PSAs to run on all Viacom radio stations in Los Angeles County, led by KRTH-FM; and 10) provision of key information by First 5 LA and County officials to several newspapers for articles on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, including those appearing in the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Daily News.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Instruct the Director of DCFS – in consultation with the directors of DHS, DMH, Fire, First Five LA, and HASC – to develop a</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop fact sheet. 	<p>Lead: DCFS</p> <p>Support: DHS,</p>	<p>Pending designation of appropriate staff to oversee this recommendation, DCFS will convene a work group of health, mental health, and child welfare experts to develop an expanded standardized training module to be used for educating staff and the</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
standardized training module to be used to educate staff and the families served by their agencies about the Safe Haven Law.	2. Develop standardized training module for County and non-County organizations to use to educate staff and families served by their agencies.	DMH, Fire, First Five LA, HASC	families served about the Law. Once completed, the County training module will be disseminated to County departments and community-based providers, and utilized by the Speakers' Bureau (Recommendation 9). The CAO and ICAN are working with DCFS to help identify appropriate DCFS staff to oversee implementation of this recommendation and to identify work group participants.
<u>Recommendation 5:</u> Instruct the directors of all County education, health, justice, mental health, and social service organizations, including the directors of contracted agencies, to: (a) engage appropriate staff in discussions about the Safe Haven Law as part of their annual in-service staff education programs; (b) on an ongoing basis, engage women of childbearing age and their families in discussions about the Safe Haven Law, options for assuring the well-being of their babies, and support programs available to them; and (c) request that the directors of all community- and faith-based educational, health, mental health, and social service organizations engage their staffs and the families they serve in these same educational activities.	1. County departments and contracted agencies must develop an internal plan to utilize the standardized training module (Recommendation 4) to educate staff about the Law in their annual in-service staff education programs. 2. County departments and contracted agencies must develop internal policies and plans to educate clients about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.	<u>Lead:</u> Department of Human Resources (DHR), CAO <u>Support:</u> All education, health, justice, mental health, and social service organizations, including the directors of contracted agencies.	Upon completion of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law training materials (Recommendation 4), DHR will disseminate information to all County departments. Departments will be requested to share this information with their contracted agencies.
<u>Recommendation 6:</u> Request the Superintendent of LACOE to work with the State Superintendent of Instruction, State Board of Education, and the California State PTA to develop or augment curricula on healthy sexual development for middle and high school students, including information about pregnancy	1. Develop new or augmented curricula on healthy sexual development for middle and high school students that includes resources about the Safely Surrendered Baby	<u>Lead:</u> LACOE	The State Department of Social Services is beginning the process of adapting a curriculum developed by the State of New Jersey on their Safe Haven Law for use in California schools. The State is currently exploring an opportunity to partner with LACOE on the adaptation of the curriculum. The curriculum is scheduled for completion in June 2003.

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
prevention and teen pregnancy; the Safe Haven Law; where and how to safely surrender a baby; related support programs; the social, cultural, and psychological factors influencing women's attitudes about pregnancy and childbirth, and the unique physical and psychosocial aspects of childbearing.	Law and relevant support programs.		
<p><u>Recommendation 7:</u> Instruct the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to incorporate into the soon-to-be operational Countywide Web Portal an Internet-accessible link with basic information about health, mental health, and social service organizations that provide prevention and intervention services to women and families at-risk for abandoning their babies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Web Page to provide the public with information on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and related resources. 2. Create an Internet-accessible link to the Countywide Web Portal with basic information to support implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. 	<p><u>Lead:</u> CIO, ISD</p> <p><u>Support:</u> DHS, CAO</p>	<p>The County's Web Page, www.babysafela.org, was launched in February 2003. The Web Page includes key information on the Law and resource information specific to surrendering an infant in the County of Los Angeles. The site also includes a search engine to identify designated Safe Surrender sites by Zip Code and printable maps and driving directions. The Countywide Portal provides a direct link to the Web Page. Implementation of this recommendation is complete.</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
<p>Recommendation 8: Instruct the directors of the County departments and agencies that fund or administer hotlines/warm lines, and request other organizations that administer hotlines/warm lines, to assure that these services provide information regarding the Safe Haven Law and support services available for women and families at-risk for abandoning their infants, or who feel they are not able to keep or care for their babies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruct directors of departments and other organizations that administer hotlines/warm lines to include information and resources about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law in their services. 	<p>Lead: Directors of County departments and agencies that fund or administer hotlines/warm lines.</p> <p>Support: CAO</p>	<p>A database of County departments and community-based providers that fund or administer hotlines/warm lines has been compiled and included in a mailing list of organizations that will receive public information materials in Spring 2003 (see Recommendation 2).</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: Request that ICAN – with input and support from its public and private members – the CPC, faith-based organizations, and First 5 LA establish a Speakers' Bureau to provide speakers who can make presentations to service providers and community groups about the Safe Haven Law and support programs available for women and families at-risk for abandoning their babies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify participants in Speakers' Bureau. 2. Provide training materials and support to the Speakers' Bureau. 3. Publicize availability of Speakers' Bureau for use by County departments and community groups. 	<p>Lead: ICAN</p> <p>Support: CPC, faith-based organizations, and First 5 LA</p>	<p>ICAN has received three requests for speakers to address various organizations about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. Two of those requests have been fulfilled and a third presentation is scheduled for May 13, 2003. Full implementation of the Speakers' Bureau is pending development of the standardized training module (Recommendation 4) to be used for presentations.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: Instruct DHR, with support from the directors of all County departments and agencies, to inform all current and new County employees about the Safe Haven Law,</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate Safe Haven resources and information to all County departments and agencies. 	<p>Lead: DHR, directors of all County departments and agencies</p>	<p>DHR has coordinated with the Auditor-Controller to use the June 13, 2003, pay warrant to alert County employees about the Law, hotline, and Web Page.</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby.	2. Provide information and resources about Safe Haven Law to all new County employees.		<p>Information on the Safely Surrendered Baby Law was distributed at in February 2003, at a Noontime Health and Wellness Seminar arranged by DHR for County employees.</p> <p>DHR will disseminate information to County departments to assist them in their efforts to inform all current and new employees about the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law pending completion of the revised Safely Surrendered Baby Law public information materials. (Recommendation 2 and 4)</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 11:</u> Instruct the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD) and County Counsel, with the support of the CAO, to explore the feasibility of ensuring that all new and renewed County contracts stipulate that each staff person in that contract organization be provided with information about the Safe Haven Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby, and report back to the Board with an implementation plan, timeline, and cost considerations within 60 days.</p>	1. Develop a feasibility study for incorporating Safe Haven information into the County's contracting process.	<p><u>Lead:</u> ISD, County Counsel</p> <p><u>Support:</u> CAO</p>	<p>On March 20, 2003, the Audit Committee reviewed and approved the Board Policy Manual Statement requiring County contractors to provide information to their employees about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law and its implementation in Los Angeles County. The Policy Statement includes standard solicitation and contract language. The contract language, originally developed in September 2003, had been revised at the request of Supervisor Knabe's Office to encourage County contractors to voluntarily post the County's "Safely Surrendered Baby Law" poster in a prominent position at the contractors' place of business.</p> <p>In April 2003, pending completion of the revised fact sheet (Recommendation 2), the CAO will issue implementation instructions to all departments requiring inclusion of the new language and a fact sheet in all solicitations, service contracts, commodity agreements, and purchase orders. ISD will provide this information to the Countywide Contracting Network group and the Material Managers via e-mail.</p> <p>ISD has revised the solicitation, sample contract models, training materials for its contract training to reflect the new contract requirements. ISD will also update the County's "Doing Business with Us" web site to reflect this new requirement.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 12:</u> Request that ICAN – with the support of the Director</p>	1. Identify a key set of data elements that	<p><u>Lead:</u> ICAN</p>	<p>The notification system, established last year by ICAN, DCFS, and the Coroner's Office, to track the incidence of newborn</p>

Safe Haven Task Force Recommendation	Deliverables	Roles	Results
<p>of DCFS and input from the DA – and directors of DHS and DMH identify a key set of data elements that will be collected regarding all newborns safely surrendered or abandoned in Los Angeles County, consistent with State instructions for data collection through the Child Welfare System/Case Management System, and report back to the Board with an implementation plan, timeline, and cost considerations for collecting these data within 60 days.</p>	<p>will be collected regarding all newborns safely surrendered or abandoned in the County.</p> <p>2. Develop an implementation plan, timeline, and cost considerations for collecting these data elements.</p>	<p><u>Support:</u> DCFS, DHS, DMH, District Attorney</p>	<p>abandonment and safe surrender is currently operational.</p> <p>ICAN continues its efforts to gather data on deceased abandoned infants through contacts with the Coroner, law enforcement, DA, hospital social workers, Fire personnel, DCFS social workers, and others. ICAN continues to work with DCFS representatives to finalize the data collection process on safely surrendered and abandoned surviving infants, and has reviewed DCFS' data collection efforts to ensure all data elements established by the Safe Haven Task Force Data Subcommittee are included. Once sufficient data has been collected for 2002 cases, ICAN will analyze the data in an effort to provide more comprehensive information to support effective implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law.</p> <p>ICAN continues to provide ongoing updates to the Board of Supervisors, CAO, and CPC as cases of safe surrender or infant abandonment occur. In addition, ICAN regularly provides data on request to CDSS, County personnel, media, and other interested parties.</p>